(c) what steps are being taken to improve the intelligence network to curb these activities;

(d) whether the respective State Governments have approached the Centre for any assistance in this regard; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Central Government to their requests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): (a) The CPML-People's War perpetrated 618 violent incidents (158 deaths) throughout the country till July 15 this year, or which 314 incidents (68 deaths) were reported from Andhra Pradesh and 3 incidents without any casualty from Karnataka, in South India.

(b) In Andhra Pradesh, 54 CPML-PW extremists were eliminated in 51 encounters and 274 extremists were arrested till July 15 in the current year. In Tamil Nadu, the State Police had apprehended 2 CPML-PW activists.

(c) A Coordination Action Group to coordinate sharing of intelligence and anti-naxalite operations between the affected States has been functioning under the chairmanship of DGP, Andhra Pradesh. Besides, the Central Government also shares actionable intelligence with the naxalite affected State Governments on a regular basis.

(d) and (e) Integrated Action Plans, encompassing development as well as security aspects in the affected areas were received from Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Orissa. In response, the Planning Commission has agreed to include all the naxalite affected districts under the Backward Districts Initiative (BDI) scheme. This scheme has been proposed to provide for an additionally of Rs. 15 crores per year per district for a period of 3 years to enable filling up of critical gaps in the physical and social infrastructure in the identified backward districts.

POLNET

1083. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had decided for establishment of a comprehensive police network *viz.,* "POLNET" to connect national capital with all the State capitals;

(b) if so, the progress made in the matter so far; and

(c) by when the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d) The Ministry of Home Affairs through the Directorate of Coordination, Police Wireless is in the process of implementing a Satellite based telecommunication network, POLNET, which will, *inter alia,* connect the National capital with the capitals of the State/Union, Territories. The contract for the project has been awarded to M/S Bharat Electronics Limited on turnkey basis. As per the terms of the contract, the installation and commissioning of the project is to be completed by December, 2004.

Coastal police force in Kerala

1084. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to assist the State Governments to set up a coastal police force;

(b) whether any proposal have been received from the Government of Kerala requesting financial assistance for the formation of coastal police force in the State;

(c) if so, whether Government have taken any decision in the matter; and

(d) whether Government propose to accord sanction and to extend the financial assistance for setting up of coastal police force in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.